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The Rt. Rev. Lord BISHOP of WINCHESTER, *Chairman.*
Dr. ADOLF KELLER, *General Secretary for Education & Extension.*

Dr. HENRY A. ATKINSON, *General Administrative Secretary.*
PAUL H. STEELE, M. A., *Assistant Administrative Secretary.*

UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON LIFE AND WORK

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

Joint Presidents:
The Rt. the Lord BISHOP of WINCHESTER,
Representing The Most Rev. the Archbishop of Canterbury.
His Grace The METROPOLITAN of THYATEIRA,
Representing His Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch.
The Rev. S. PARKES CADMAN, D. D.
D. Dr. H. KAPLER.

All correspondence to be addressed to the International Christian Social Institute

GENEVA, January 8th, 1931.
2, RUE DE MONTCHOISY
Tel, 26.563
Telegrams & Cables: Kirchenbund, Geneva.

NEWS LETTER No. I.

The Social Institute has been established in Geneva for the service of the churches of the world. It will be of value in proportion as the churches avail themselves of the help it may offer.

The Institute is organised into three departments:

a. Administration;
b. Research;
c. Education and Extension.

What has the Institute to offer ?

1. An international Christian centre for the study of social and economic problems in their relation to the programme of the churches.
2. A centre from which the churches throughout the world may secure help and guidance, such as they ask for and up to the ability of the Institute to provide it, in the approach to the complex and difficult questions that face our civilisation.

The Institute belongs to the churches, and they have a right to be kept informed of what is being done. To facilitate this purpose, this news-letter is being sent out to our entire constituency. If this experiment proves successful and the news-letter its worth, it will be continued as a regular publication of the office, and a record of its work.

Therefore, in sending this letter to you, it is with the compliments of the entire staff of workers.

We will greatly appreciate a letter from you in regard to the work, and would be glad if you would send us the names of other friends to whom you would like this letter mailed. Also we urge you to write for additional copies of the pamphlet " The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems," which has recently been issued. This can be secured at the Geneva office at the cost of 6d., from The Industrial Christian Fellowship, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, or 20 cents from The Secretary, Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd, Street, New York City.

We want to make the Institute worth while. It will be only worth while if you cooperate with us and let us know that you are interested.

Henry A. ATKINSON,
General Administrative Secretary.

LIBRARY
World Council of Churches
17, route de Malagnou, GENEVA

GENERAL INFORMATION

The *Theologian's Commission* has recently published a christological symposium entitled " Mysterium Christi " in an English and German edition edited by the Bishop of Chichester and Professor A. Deissmann, price 15/- from Longmans Green & Co., and is convening the Third British-German Theological Conference in the spring of 1931 at Chichester under the leadership of the Bishop of Chichester.

Under the auspices of the *Youth Commission* there was held a successful five-day Conference of Orthodox leaders at Salonica, on the question of the attitude of youth to the Orthodox Church and religious education. In September 1931 this Commission is planning a study-week in Geneva for leaders of youth of different countries, on the subject of unemployment among others.

The *Press Commission* has recently issued a Hand-Book of the Churches giving the statistics of the churches of the world, and also, during November, two œcumenical letters:

1. Religious education in eastern orthodox nations.
2. The International Labour Office and the Churches.

The *Churches and Labour Commission*, in conjunction with our *Research Department*, is inviting the churches of each country to hold a National Conference on Unemployment, and is preparing an international week in 1932 on the subject "Churches and Labour", to which representatives of industry should be invited.

The complete Constitution and Byelaws of the Universal Christian Council will be circulated with the names of the Council members early in the new year.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

During October and November the staff prepared a booklet entitled "The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems" for publication in three languages. The English edition has just come out, while the German is in the press and the French is still in preparation. (For further particulars see below under Publications.)

This pamphlet of eighty pages, and sold at a very moderate price, contains the Findings and Papers of the Conference of Christian Social Workers organised in London in July 1930 by the Geneva Institute. The Conference dealt with Unemployment, Rationalisation, and the International Labour Conventions, as well as with the Problem of a Christian Sociology. There is a Conference report on each of these subjects, and searching papers on all of them are appended.

It is suggested that this pamphlet be used as a basis of study by classes in churches, clubs, schools or in specially selected groups.

Following the action taken at Chexbres by the Universal Christian Council, the Research Department has started work preparatory to the organisation of national study conferences on unemployment, to be held under the auspices of national church federations or similar bodies. The actual organisation of the national conferences is in the hands of the competent national agencies; for the United States, the Federal Council of Churches (105 East 22nd. Street, New York City), and for Great Britain, the Christian Social Council (Secretary, Rev. P. T. R. Kirk, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W. 1). An International Conference on Unemployment will be called at the earliest possible date compatible with preparations along national and international lines, probably sometime in 1932, and possibly at an earlier date. The German Church Federation has already taken action, and has appointed a Committee which is to start preparations at once. The British Christian Social Council proposes to turn its October Council meetings into a National Conference on Unemployment. Furthermore, the churches of Latvia and Austria are planning to organise a Conference on Unemployment in 1931.

The Rev. Henry Smith Leiper, Secretary of the American Section, has written to the Research Department announcing that in line with our request a conference will be held in Washington at the end of January where the question of permanent preventives of unemployment will be discussed. Special arrangements are being made to include in this conference representatives of all the churches and religious social service agencies.

In October Dr. Schönfeld was invited to attend the 27th. Congress of the Kirchlich-Soziale Bund, an association of church people interested in the social applications of the Gospel, at Bielefeld. He talked over with a number of leading personalities the preparations of the projected Study Conference on Unemployment. These included representatives of Labour, of Employers, the Cooperative Movement (which is very important in Germany), the Evangelical Social Institute of Spandau (near Berlin), as well as several Social Pastors. A number of these declared their willingness to form local study groups and in other ways to assist the work to be undertaken.

Also in October, Dr. Schönfeld attended the meeting of the Christian Social Fellow ship of Thuringia at Arnstadt. This is a regional study organisation led by Sozialpastor Rodinburg of Eisenach, associating employers, employees, medical doctors, lawyers and judges, and members of the army. The Conference offered a welcome opportunity to discuss with the members a number of important questions related to the forthcoming Church Conference on Unemployment. A study group is being formed which will collect and study the material from Thuringia in particular, and thus prepare and take part in the work of the larger conference. He gave an address on " Unemployment and the Churches " which has appeared in the monthly paper of the organisation.

The Second East-Western Theological Conference organised under the auspices of the Stockholm Commission of Theologians, was held in September at Berne. Complying with a wish expressed by the London Study Conference, an evening was set aside for the discussion of the problem of Natural Law, as a possible basis for a Christian Sociology. Mr. Oscar Bauhofer of the Research Department of the Institute introduced the subject.

Miss Vallette is preparing a report on the question ," Age of Admission of Children to Employment in Non-Industrial Occupations ". This is the first item on the Agenda of the International Labour Conference to be held in 1931. This report will be based on a recent publication of the Labour Office prepared in view of this forthcoming Conference.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

The General Secretary of the Department for Education and Extension gave a series of lectures at the University of Berlin on the œcumenical movement and its ideals, which were listened to with interest by the students, and evoked a new response to the things the Social Institute is trying to do.

The lectures at Berlin were a part of the activities of Dr. Keller on a set tour through Germany. He spoke also before the theological schools at Heidelberg, Frankfort, Tübingen, and in the churches and assemblies in various places in Switzerland, including Basel, Zurich, Berne, Olten and Lausanne. Also in the cities of Karlsruhe and Alberfeld, Germany.

In developing his department, Dr. Keller plans to secure a small committee in a large number of centres throughout the world, each of which will form the connecting link between the office in Geneva and the local churches. These groups will form the machinery through which the work of Education and Extension will be carried out. As a hopeful start small groups have been interested in all the places Dr. Keller has visited on this last trip. It is perfectly clear now that in each country there is needed a large number of such centres from which the ideals of the Stockholm Movement may be spread, and the results achieved through the Research Department brought into the consciousness of the local chruches. This work of education can be done better through such central groups than through the regular church authorities or the Institute working alone. One of the greatest needs is for a large number of trained men who, in this way, will serve as liaison officers on behalf of the Council, the Institute and the churches.

A unique service was arranged in November by the " Central Agency for Religious Music " in Frankfort, Germany. It was a continent-wide religious service, truly œcumenical in its spirit as well as in its arrangements. The organ that was used in the service was in Hamburg, played by Professor Sittard. The famous choir of St. Thomas in Leipzig sang the service. The liturgy was spoken in Frankfort by the Rev. Lic. Wallau, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Keller in Geneva. The unified service was sent out over the radio in Frankfort as the concentration point, to the entire continent of Europe. As a symbol of unity and a means of spreading the œcumenical spirit, no one thing could have been more spectacular, more helpful, or promise more for the future.

Since the meeting at Chexbres, definite advances have been made in bringing together the various international organisations in Geneva. The Institute is represented in the Federation of Official and Private International Organisations. We are exchanging information not only with the international Christian societies, but with other organisations having the same general ends in view. The Christian and international organisations have opened a joint study centre in the building which houses our Institute, and here have been given several lectures and receptions. Monsieur Henriod, of the Student Federation recently spoke on his visit to South America. Other features of this kind are being

arranged, and the hope is that ultimately this Joint Centre will prove to be the rallying point of all the religious forces working in Geneva. And in connection with it will be developed a large and really practical Christian international library.

Dr. Keller has made interesting contacts with the welfare workers in various other cities. In Berlin, for instance, the International Association for Church Welfare Work received him and showed him over their centre.

The Swiss Church Federation is discussing the question of organising a commission charged with the responsibility of maintaining closer relations with the Institute.

The International Missionary Council has opened its Research Bureau in the same building as the Institute, and Mr. Merle Davis is in charge with Dr. Iserland as his associate. A conference has been held with Mr. Davis and Mr. Gethman of the Y.M.C.A., and while it seems inadvisable at present to attempt any close coordination, an agreement has been reached whereby the Bureaus of Research of the Institute, the International Missionary Council and the Y.M.C.A. will as far as possible share their experiences, pool their findings in the field of social study, and together work out means for each to carry out its work in a more efficient manner by using common interpreters, common translators, cutting down expenses through the means of cooperative buying, etc. The main thing in all this kind of work is to keep in right relationship and let the formal means of cooperation develop by themselves.

The fourth number of the review, " Stockholm," for 1930 was issued in December. The review merits, we believe, a careful reading, and those responsible for it will deeply appreciate the continued as well as a growing interest in its welfare. The next issue of the review will have articles especially relating to the question of unemployment.

The many calls upon Dr. Keller's time for speeches and lectures in the near future indicate that he will continue to be exceedingly busy. He has promised to give a course of lectures in French at the Theological School in Monpellier and Paris in February, and is planning a trip to the Balkans later in the year.

PUBLICATIONS

1. *Stockholm.* An international Christian quarterly review of 96 pages, in three languages, on the social activities of the churches. Annual subscription 10/6 from all booksellers. *The Oxford University Press, London.* or *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. U. S. A.*

2. "The Churches and the Welfare of Seamen." *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 3, gratis.

3. "The Churches and Present-day Problems." *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 4. Price 6d. a copy. *I. C. F. Book Shop, 4 The Sanctuary, London. S. W. I.*

4. *Handbook of the Churches.* In three languages, price 3/- and 3.50 Swiss fr. pub. by the International Christian Press Commission, Berlin-Steglitz, Beymestr. 8.

5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Continuation Committee, Chexbres, Switzerland, 1930. (With reports of the Commissions on Youth, Press, Churches and Labour, Cooperation, the Theologians' Commission, Reorganisation of the Secretariat. Also the new Constitution and Byelaws of the Council.)
   English edition now ready and circulated gratis upon request. German and French editions in preparation.

All the publications mentioned in this letter may be obtained through the INSTITUTE.